

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink container including water-based ink for ink-jet recording and a package in which said water-based ink is accommodated,
_____ wherein said water-based ink includes an inert gas dissolved therein and an amount of oxygen dissolved in said water-based ink for ink-jet recording is less than ~~3 mL/L~~ 3 mL/L, and
_____ wherein said package has oxygen permeability of not greater than 1.0 mL/m²•24hr•atm.
2. (Original) The ink container according to claim 1, wherein said inert gas is dissolved in said water-based ink such that said inert gas is in a saturated state in said ink.
3. (Original) The ink container according to claim 1, wherein said inert gas is dissolved in said water-based ink such that said inert gas is in a substantially saturated state in said ink.
4. (Original) The ink container according to claim 1, wherein said inert gas comprises argon.
5. (Original) The ink container according to claim 1, wherein said package includes an ink bag having a laminar structure which includes at least a resin film layer and a metal film layer that are superposed on each other, and an ink inlet formed of resin.
6. (Original) The ink container according to claim 5, wherein said laminar structure of said ink bag is one of: a laminar structure consisting of a polyamide layer, an aluminium alloy layer, a polyethylene terephthalate layer, and a polypropylene layer which are superposed on one another; a polyethylene terephthalate film on which alumina is deposited; and aluminium foil on which a polyethylene film is laminated.

7. (Original) The ink container according to claim 5, wherein said resin film layer is one of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer and polyamide.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) The ink container according to ~~claim 8~~claim 1, wherein said package has oxygen permeability of not greater than $0.5 \text{ mL/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{hr} \cdot \text{atm}$.
10. (Currently Amended) An ink container-sealing wrapper ~~assembly including assembly, including:~~
_____ an ink container as defined in claim 1 including water-based ink for ink-jet recording and a package in which said water-based ink is accommodated, wherein said water-based ink includes an inert gas dissolved therein and an amount of oxygen dissolved in said water-based ink for ink-jet recording is less than 3 mL/L, and
_____ a sealing wrapper in which said ink container is accommodated, an interior space within said sealing wrapper existing between said ink container and said sealing wrapper is being charged with an inert gas.
11. (Original) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, wherein said inert gas comprises argon.
12. (Original) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, wherein said sealing wrapper is formed of at least one film formed of resin, said resin being selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyamide.
13. (Original) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 12, wherein said at least one film formed of resin includes alumina deposited thereon.
14. (Original) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, further including a casing in which said ink container is accommodated, and an interior space of said casing is charged with said inert gas.

15. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, wherein said inert gas is dissolved in said water-based ink such that said inert gas is in a saturated state in said ink.

16. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, wherein said inert gas is dissolved in said water-based ink such that said inert gas is in a substantially saturated state in said ink.

17. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, wherein said package includes an ink bag having a laminar structure which includes at least a resin film layer and a metal film layer that are superposed on each other, and an ink inlet formed of resin.

18. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 17, wherein said laminar structure of said ink bag is one of a laminar structure consisting of a polyamide layer, an aluminium alloy layer, a polyethylene terephthalate layer, and a polypropylene layer which are superposed on one another; a polyethylene terephthalate film on which alumina is deposited; and aluminium foil on which a polyethylene film is laminated.

19. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 17, wherein said resin film layer is one of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer and polyamide.

20. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 10, wherein said package has oxygen permeability of not greater than $1.0 \text{ mL/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{hr} \cdot \text{atm}$.

21. (New) The ink container-sealing wrapper assembly according to claim 20, wherein said package has oxygen permeability of not greater than $0.5 \text{ mL/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{hr} \cdot \text{atm}$.